

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 20 have been revised to include the limitations of claims 2 and 3. Claims 2-3, are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. There is no new matter. Claims 5-14 and 21-25 are withdrawn. Claims 1 -28 are pending.

Claim Rejections 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 2 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Schmidt (U.S. Patent No. 3,538,308). Claim 1 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kerlin (U.S. Patent No. 4,501,947). Claim 2 has been cancelled. The rejections of claims 1 and 18 are now moot as claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 3 and claim 18 depends from claim 1. Claims 4 and 5-19 depend on claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of these rejections is therefore requested. Applicants do not concede the correctness of these rejections. Claims for non-elected species 5-14 depend on claim 1 and should be reinstated for allowance.

Claim Rejections 35 USC § 103

Claims 15-17, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kerlin (U.S. Patent No. 4,501,947) in view of Salsgiver et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,931,613). This rejection is now moot as claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 3. Claims 15-17 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kerlin (U.S. Patent No. 4,501,947) in view of le Fur et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,425,496) and Yuasa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,223,687). This rejection is now moot as claim 20 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 3. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection. Claims 26-28 depend from claim 20 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Claims for non-elected species 21-25 depend on claim 20 and should be reinstated for allowance.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application in the form of a Notice of Allowance. Applicants respectfully assert that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If any questions arise regarding this communication, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative listed below.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account
No. 50-3478.



Dated: June 18, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

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